

Fiscal Services Division Legislative Services Agency Fiscal Note

SF 2234 - Child Visitation Uniform Weekends (LSB 5143 SV)
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Fiscal Note Version - New

Description

Senate File 2234 adds new requirements related to child custody and visitation provisions. The Bill adds a new section to Chapter 598, Code of Iowa, that any custody order must include a minimum visitation order, unless the court finds that it would not be in the best interest of the child. The Bill also amends Chapter 600B, Code of Iowa, stating that when the court enters an order for paternity and child support, they must also issue an order for custody and visitation.

Assumptions

1. Annually, the Judicial Branch issues approximately 10,000 dissolution cases involving children.
2. Under current law, temporary visitation orders are issued in all cases, but information on the visitation schedules is unknown.
3. Up to 50.0% of visitation orders will not provide for alternating weekends, and one party will object to standardized visitation. This would result in each case increasing court time by approximately 15 to 30 minutes.
4. Up to 50.0% of dissolutions currently granted would be contested. The fiscal impact would range from \$0 to \$143,000.
5. In calendar year 2003, the Judicial Branch disposed of 5,600 paternity suits.
6. Under current law, visitation is discretionary on the part of the Judge.
7. Up to 50.0% of current paternity suits would have standardized visitation. The fiscal impact would range from \$0 to \$80,000.

Fiscal Impact

The estimated General Fund fiscal impact of SF 2234 for standardizing visitation in dissolutions and paternity cases ranges from \$0 to \$223,000 annually.

Sources

Judicial Branch
Department of Human Services

Dennis C Prouty

March 22, 2004

The fiscal note and correctional impact statement for this bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and pursuant to Section 2.56, Code of Iowa. Data used in developing this fiscal note and correctional impact statement are available from the Fiscal Services Division, Legislative Services Agency to members of the Legislature upon request.
